UNECE Group of Experts Meeting
Population and Housing Censuses

Wednesday 19 May 2021 and Thursday 20 May 2021

2020 Census Data Quality

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2020 Census
Ensuring High Quality Data from the 2020 Census

Multi-prong Approach:

- Chartered the 2020 **Data Quality Executive Guidance Group** a year ago to ensure that we had the right focus and resources dedicated to detecting and addressing data quality issues.

- Initiated the **engagement of external expert groups**, as part of our commitment to transparency, to provide quality assessments on different aspects of the program and on different timelines.

- Expanded the **tools and metrics** already in place to assess Census Quality.

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2020 Census
Data Quality External Expert Engagement Efforts

Asking outside experts to review our work is standard operating procedure at the U.S. Census Bureau. It underscores our commitment to quality and transparency.

- Engaging with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee on National Statistics, American Statistical Association Quality Indicators Task Force, and JASON. These three groups will tackle different aspects of assessing the Census Bureau's work. Their reports will advise the Census Bureau on improving future censuses and will help the public understand the quality of the 2020 Census data.

  - **Quick turnaround feedback** on our processes, procedures and metrics from JASON. We shared their final report publicly back in February.

  - **A real-time assessment** by a team of experts from the American Statistical Association on quality indicators. The ASA shares regular updates on its website to keep stakeholders up to date Updates on the 2020 Census Quality Indicators (amstat.org)

  - For **a longer term assessment**, we are in the process of establishing a consensus panel with the Committee on National Statistics that will conduct an evaluation of the quality of the data from the 2020 Census. We held our kick-off meeting on May 3 and it is anticipated that the study will take 24 months.

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2020 Census
Upcoming 2020 Census Tools, Assessments and Evaluations

Milestones for Release of Data Quality Assessment Metrics:

- Release of Demographic Analysis Results : Released December 15, 2020

- Release of 2020 Census Operational Quality Metrics to accompany Resident Population Counts : April 26, 2021 and May 2021

- Release of 2020 Census Operational Quality Metrics to accompany Redistricting Data Products : September 2021

- Release of Initial 2020 Post Enumeration Survey Results : Early 2022

Assessments are designed to document final volumes, rates, and costs for individual operations or processes using data from production files and activities and information collected from debriefings and lessons learned. 54 Operational Assessments on the 2020 Census will be published, beginning in Summer 2021.

Evaluations are designed to analyze, interpret, and synthesize the effectiveness and efficiencies of census components and their impact on data quality and coverage. A total of 14 Evaluations on the 2020 Census will be published, beginning in Summer 2021.

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2020 Census
Operational Quality Metrics : April 26, 2021

- No single number can definitively quantify the quality of the census.

- Operational metrics are data points related to progress and results of census operations.

- Insights gained through comparisons by state and comparisons to past census results.

- Differences are:

  – A result of changes within the Census Bureau's control such as changes in the operational design since 2010.

  – A result of changes outside of the Census Bureau's control such as normal changes in the population, respondent behavior, and COVID-19.

  – Expected across geographies and when making comparisons to the 2010 Census.

- Different doesn't necessarily mean "better" or "worse."

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2020 Census
Resolution of Addresses

Every address in the 2020 Census universe must be assigned a resolution.

Resolution of an address involves a determination of status (occupied, vacant, or nonexistent) and when occupied, collection of census response information for all persons at an address.

Over 97% of addresses were resolved through self-response (internet, phone or paper) or nonresponse followup (household interview, high-quality administrative records, or proxy interview).

Almost 2% of addresses were resolved through operations targeted at unique geographies or populations such as addresses in remote areas of Alaska or addresses for group quarters, where people live and receive services.

Less than 1% of addresses were unresolved and required a statistical methodology, known as imputation, to assign a status, and when occupied, to assign a population count.

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2020 Census
Quality of Address Resolutions – a Hierarchy

	2010	2010 Cumulative Total *		2020	2020 Cumulative Total *
Highest quality data are collected through self-response online, by phone, or by mail	61.1%	61.1%		65.3%	65.3%
If we don't receive a self response, we:					
• Prefer an interview with a household respondent	18.8%	79.9%		10.8%	76.1%
• Can use high-quality administrative records, when available, when a household respondent can not be reached (only 2020)				4.6%	80.7%
• Will collect a response from a neighbor, landlord, or building manager (a proxy response) after multiple attempts to collect data from a household respondent are unsuccessful	19.5%	99.4%		18.2%	98.9%
Unresolved addresses after data collection	0.4%	99.8%		0.2%	99.1%
Unresolved addresses after person unduplication				0.7%	99.8%

* Numbers may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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Release and Access Information

Accessing the Operational Quality Metrics

Interactive dashboard that makes it easy to compare metrics:

- 2020 Census to the 2010 Census.

- U.S. total to a state.

- State to state.
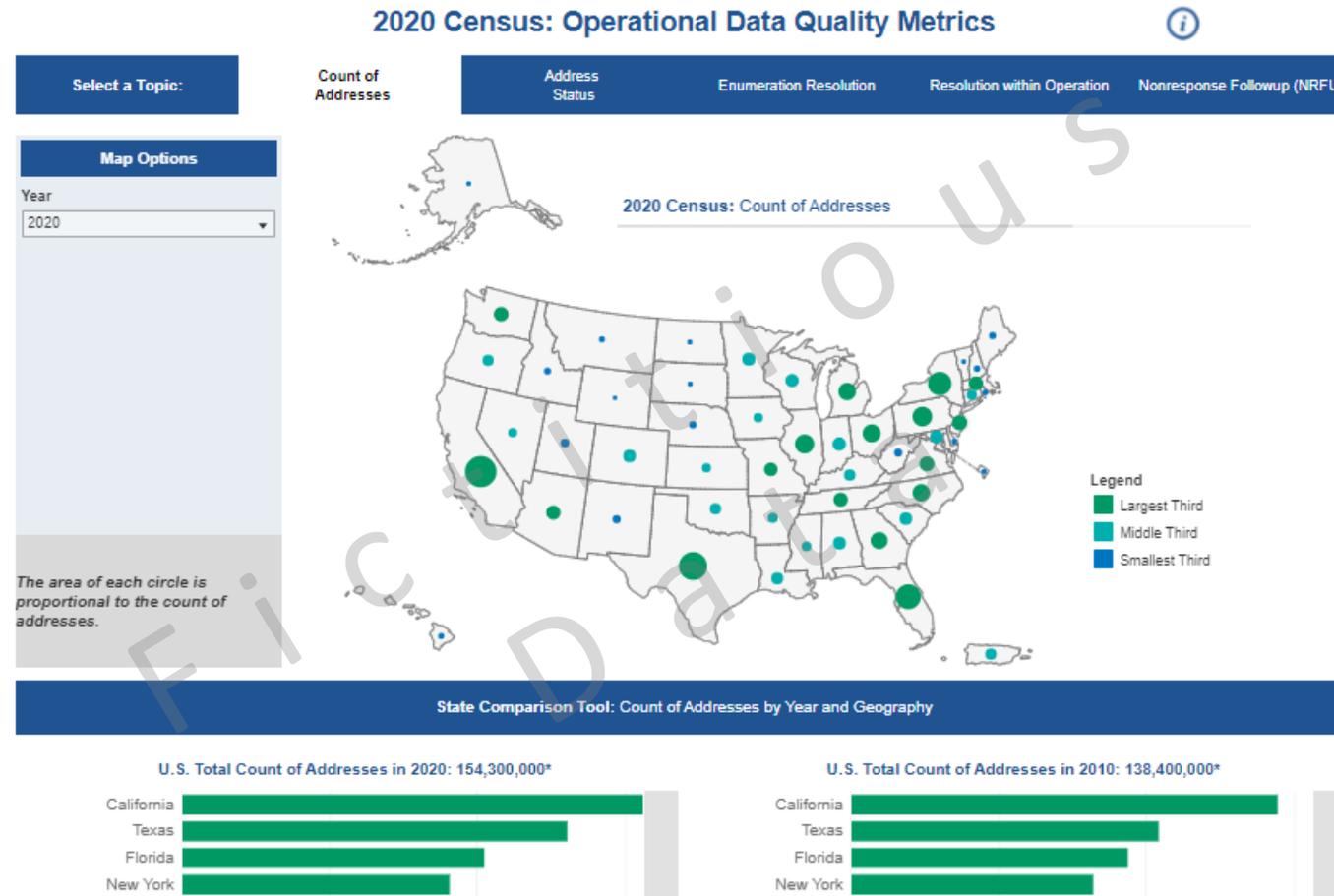
Visual contains fictitious data for illustrative purposes only.

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Accessing the Operational Quality Metrics

Downloadable Excel spreadsheet with individual tabs for the 2020 Census operational quality metrics, comparable 2010 Census metrics, and definitions.

2020 Census Operational Quality Metrics: Release 1	U.S. Total	Alabama	Alaska
Total Addresses (Count)			
Final Status of Addresses			
Percent Resolved as:			
Self-Response Occupied			
Self-Response Vacant/Delete (applies to 2020 Census only)			
Nonresponse Followup Occupied			
Nonresponse Followup Vacant			
Nonresponse Followup Delete			
Group Quarters Occupied			
Group Quarters Vacant/Delete			
Other Occupied (2020: UE, RA, SRQA, and Cov Imp; 2010: UE, RUE, RA, and CFU)			
Other Vacant (2020: UE, RA, SRQA, and Cov Imp; 2010: UE, RUE, RA, and CFU)			
Other Delete (2020: UE, RA, SRQA, and Cov Imp; 2010: UE, RUE, RA, and CFU)			
Unresolved (went to Count Imputation)			
Unresolved, data collection			
Unresolved, person unduplication (applies to 2020 Census only)			

The full table shell can be found at: 2020 Census Quality and Data Processing Press Kit.

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Accessing the 2020 Census Data Quality Page

2020 Census Data Quality

1. Go to www.census.gov

Select **SURVEYS/PROGRAMS** (at the top of the page) and **2020 Census**

2. Then select 2020 Census Data Quality

On this webpage you'll find:

- Operational Quality Metrics
- An interactive Operational Quality Metrics tool
- Comparisons to population benchmarks
- Outside expert reviews
- Operational assessments and evaluations
- Technical documentation, FAQs, and more!

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Questions?